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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

THE SITUATION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HAITI

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/47/L.56

Eighteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement (A/C.5/47/93), submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/47/L.56, relating to the situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti.

2. The Advisory Committee recalls that, following the adoption on 24 November 1992 of General Assembly resolution 47/20, in which, inter alia, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to take the necessary measures in order to assist, in cooperation with the Organization of American States (OAS), in the solution of the Haitian crisis, the Secretary-General had appointed a special envoy for Haiti and had dispatched an advance team, a survey group and human rights experts to that country. For the financing of those requirements, the Committee had authorized the Secretary-General to enter into commitments of up to $1 million; that amount has now been incorporated into the budget estimates submitted in the Secretary-General's statement under consideration.

3. Pursuant to the request contained in paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 47/20, the Secretary-General submitted a report (A/47/908), inter alia, recommending that the General Assembly establish the United Nations component of a United Nations/OAS joint International Civilian Mission in Haiti. That report also forms the basis for the preparation of the budget estimates submitted for consideration.

4. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 5 of the Secretary-General's statement that the mission in Haiti would include a United Nations and an OAS contingent of observers of equal strength. From paragraph 11 the Committee notes that discussions are continuing between the two organizations on sharing the costs of the human and material resources required to enable the international staff in both components to carry out their functions, with regard to recruitment, accommodation, transportation and communications. Although it is the Secretary-General's view that, given the joint nature of the mission, those costs should be equally shared between the two organizations, the Committee was informed, on inquiry, that agreement is being worked out on the subject.

5. As set out in paragraph 7 of the statement, the proposed staffing for the United Nations component of the mission includes one post at the Under-Secretary-General level for the Special Envoy and one post at the Assistant Secretary-General level for the Executive Director, the related costs to be shared by the United Nations and OAS. The Advisory Committee was informed that formal agreement is also being worked out in this regard. The Committee notes that provision has been made by the United Nations for 196 international staff, including 133 human rights observers. With regard to the other 63 staff, including 7 human rights coordinators, who would be performing administrative and supervisory functions for the joint mission, the Committee could not be provided, at this stage, with an indication as to the source of funding.

6. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 8 of the statement that options for possible transfer of surplus equipment from existing missions are currently under review. However, since such equipment has not yet been identified, no allowance has been made for such transfers.

7. The Advisory Committee notes from paragraph 13 of the statement that the Secretary-General has established a Trust Fund for Haiti and intends to solicit voluntary contributions to help meet costs related to this effort.

8. Estimated requirements at full cost for the mission for 1993 are given in paragraph 10 of the statement, and in annex III to the statement. However, as indicated in paragraph 11, the actual cost to the United Nations is likely to be less than the figures indicated; but their exact amount cannot be estimated until a formula has been agreed with OAS on the modalities for sharing them between the two organizations.

9. At this stage therefore the Secretary-General is requesting only an appropriation of $19,112,600 net, which is expected to cover the full cost of the international staff of the United Nations component plus 35 per cent of the estimated cost of the local support personnel and goods and services required for the joint mission. As indicated in paragraph 12 of the statement, the Secretary-General will report further on requirements when the discussions with OAS have been concluded and request such additional appropriations or commitment authority as required. The Advisory Committee has been informed that a report will be submitted in September pursuant to operative paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/47/L.56 and taking into account the Secretary-General's statement (A/47/908, para. 95) that it is important that a comprehensive review of the operational plan take place not later than September 1993 so that it can be revised in the light of experience.

10. Under the circumstances, and pending submission of a comprehensive report by the Secretary-General in September, the Advisory Committee recommends that the Fifth Committee inform the General Assembly that, should the Assembly adopt draft resolution A/47/L.56, there will be need for an expenditure of up to $19,112,600 under the objects of expenditure outlined in paragraph 10 of the Secretary-General's statement.

11. The representatives of the Secretary-General informed the Advisory Committee that assessment of the relevant amounts is not necessary at this stage. That being the case, and in view of the report to be submitted by the Secretary-General in September 1993 (see paras. 9 and 10 above), the Committee believes that the Secretary-General should be authorized to enter into further commitments of up to $18.1 million (commitment authority of $1 million already exists: see para. 2 above). Such amounts as may be necessary can be appropriated and assessed on the basis of the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report in September 1993, which would indicate, inter alia, the results of the negotiations with OAS on cost sharing, the performance of the mission to date and the status of the voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund. In this connection, the Committee trusts that the Secretary-General will intensify efforts to collect voluntary contributions, which will also help to ensure the necessary cash flow.